UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/466
22 April 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 22 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF QATAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations, I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Group have been following with great interest the recent developments in the Lockerbie case and that they would like to submit to you the following:

The Islamic Group at the United Nations,

Applauding the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the flexibility and reasonableness with which it has tackled the issue since the dispute first began,

Expressing the highest appreciation for the efforts of Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan, the leaders of South Africa and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and others to arrive at an agreement acceptable to all parties and to secure a peaceful, fair and lasting solution to the dispute,

Recalling the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Islamic Summit Conference at its eighth session, held in Tehran from 9 to 11 December 1997, by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers at its twenty-fifth session, held in Doha from 15 to 17 March 1998, and by the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held in New York on 1 October 1998,

Calling attention to the letter dated 19 March 1999 from His Excellency Omar Mustafa Muntasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (S/1999/311, annex),

Taking note of the letter dated 5 April 1999 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/378),

Observing that the Security Council responded quickly and with unanimity to the recent step taken by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by issuing a press statement on 5 April 1999 and a presidential statement on 8 April 1999 under whose terms all of the sanctions imposed on the country were suspended as of 5 April 1999,

1. Expresses the view that, in addition to the press statement of 5 April 1999 and the presidential statement of 8 April 1999, the suspension of sanctions should also have been embodied in a resolution adopted by the Security Council so as to place the question in its correct legal framework;

2. Requests the Council speedily to adopt a resolution definitively lifting the sanctions imposed on Libya, which has cooperated fully, has discharged all of its obligations under Council resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), 883 (1993) and 1192 (1998) and has responded to the requests to which reference is made in resolution 731 (1992);

3. Expresses the view, now that the legal process has gone before the Scottish court as agreed by all the parties concerned, that the politicization, in any form and by any party whatever, of this legal dispute would be unacceptable and that, inasmuch as the matter is sub judice, all the parties must comply with whatever verdict is reached by the Scottish court convened in the Netherlands.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nassir Abdelaziz AL-NASSER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Qatar
Chairman of the Islamic Group